

19 March 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Coordination Staff

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1. I called on Gen. [REDACTED] this morning at his request to look over the papers on the revised concept of the NIS program and recommendations for its direction and management. He said he wanted me to see them before he had his boys fan out through the community to discuss the NIS in the light of the alleged new concept. He did not invite any comment from me, but said in response to my query on what to do with any comment CBI might have that we thought helpful, that [REDACTED] would be around to discuss the papers with us. He was to be a sort of action officer with CBI, the General said.

2. I told the General that his investigation had stimulated such interest in the NIS program that we had an unusually large number of requests for supplementary distribution. He seemed pleased and told me to tell [REDACTED] this to quiet any doubts about the usefulness of the Coordination Staff.

3. The General wanted to know if we had any ideas of what to call the NIS Committee. They had apparently discussed this at length. I couldn't help much other than suggest the NIS Committee be called the NIS Committee. The General asked if I had noticed the increasing importance of DIA in competition with CIA. I had, I said, and saw that he had recognized this in his provision that the NIS Committee be chaired by CIA.

4. He pulled forth some arithmetic showing that now DIA had over 60% of the production responsibility for the NIS. I said I would furnish him with the latest totals for his arithmetic, because I thought the CIA responsibility for NIS production was greater than that of DIA.

5. Pending the outcome of the General's efforts, I said, we in CBI expected to proceed with business as usual on scheduled production for FY 64. Because of the long lead times involved, we felt we had no choice. Balmer agreed that confusion would be wasteful and said our course was correct.

6. In our brief staff meeting in CBI after my return we agreed that, except for sending [REDACTED] new arithmetic, we would play dead and let them make the first move.

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cc: Ch/D/E and Ch/D/R